

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 30, 2003  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1554**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Keene**

February 21, 2003

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An act to amend Section 42285.3 of the Education Code, relating to schools.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1554, as amended, Keene. School finance: necessary small schools.

(1) Existing law provides that a unified school district that meets certain criteria is eligible to receive apportionments pursuant to the schedules for a necessary small school and a necessary small high school, as specified. Existing law requires a school district that receives those apportionments to report to the State Department of Education and the Department of Finance by July 1, 2001, concerning the district's plan to address the district's need for additional funding when this provision is repealed.

This bill would delete that reporting requirement.

(2) Under existing law, these provisions become inoperative on July 1, 2004, and are repealed as of January 1, 2005.

This bill would delete those inoperative and repeal dates, thereby extending the operation of those provisions indefinitely.

(3) *Existing law defines "necessary small school," and "necessary small high school," based on low average daily attendance and travel*

*hardship. Existing law, notwithstanding that definition, deems certain schools and high schools necessary small schools and necessary small high schools, respectively, for purposes of calculating state funding apportionments.*

*This bill would require the State Department of Education to review the meaning of the terms necessary small school and necessary small high school and make recommendations regarding revising those terms no later than February 1, 2004.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 42285.3 of the Education Code is  
2 amended to read:  
3 42285.3. Notwithstanding subdivision (b) of Section 42280  
4 or any other provision of law, a unified school district that is the  
5 only school district in a county, that has received more than two  
6 million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$2,700,000) in federal  
7 Forest Reserve funds in the 1992–93 school year and less than one  
8 million three hundred thousand dollars (\$1,300,000) in federal  
9 Forest Reserve funds in the 1996–97 school year, and that has  
10 fewer than 4,501 units of average daily attendance in the 1997–98  
11 school year or in subsequent school years shall be eligible to  
12 receive apportionments pursuant to the schedules for a “necessary  
13 small school” and a “necessary small high school,” as set forth in  
14 this article, for up to the total number of schools in the district that  
15 would have met the criteria for classification as a necessary small  
16 school or a necessary small high school in the 1996–97 fiscal year,  
17 if the district had fewer than 2,501 units of average daily  
18 attendance in the 1996–97 fiscal year, except that this section does  
19 not apply in a school year in which an otherwise eligible school  
20 district receives more than two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in  
21 federal Forest Reserve funds.

22 SEC. 2. *The State Department of Education shall, within*  
23 *existing resources, review the various elements of the meaning of*  
24 *the terms “necessary small school,” and “necessary small high*  
25 *school,” found in Article 4 (commencing with Section 42280) of*  
26 *Chapter 7 of Part 24 of the Education Code. The review shall*  
27 *include recommendations regarding revising the definition of*

1 *those terms for the purpose of making them applicable to all*  
2 *schools that receive funding pursuant to those provisions. The*  
3 *department shall report its findings and recommendations to the*  
4 *Legislature no later than February 1, 2004.*

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